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(54) METHOD FOR LASER WELDING OF RESIN MEMBER

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a method for laser welding of a resin member which does not generate inferior welding.

SOLUTION: The method for laser welding is a method wherein an interface where a transmissible resin material consisting of a transmissible resin transmitting to a laser light as a heating source is brought into contact with a non-transmissible resin material consisting of a non-transmissible resin non-transmissible to the laser light is heat-melted and welded from the transmissible resin member side by irradiating it with the laser light. It is possible by the method for laser welding of the resin member to perform laser welding of the resin member by one welding process suppressing generation of inferior welding.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]

It is the laser joining approach of the resin member which is made to carry out heating melting of the contact interface of the transparency resin material which consists of transparency resin which is penetrable to the laser light as a source of heating, and the nontransparent resin material which consists of nontransparent resin which is opaque to this laser light by the exposure of this laser light from this transparency resin material side, and welds it,

The laser joining approach of the resin member which arranges the joining resin which consists of this nontransparent resin into the beam of light of this laser light, carries out heating fusion, and is characterized by supplying the melting liquid of this joining resin to the contact edge of both resin material.

[Claim 2]

While fitting heights are prepared in said contact edge of said transparency resin material, the fitting crevice which can insert these fitting heights is established in said contact edge of said nontransparent resin material,

The laser joining approach of a resin member according to claim 1 that joining of one wall of the opposite walls of the couple which forms this fitting crevice is carried out to one surface section of these fitting heights, and other walls of this fitting crevice and the surface section of another side of these fitting heights divide the reservoir section in which said melting liquid of said joining resin is stored.

[Claim 3]

Said joining resin is the laser joining approach of the resin member according to claim 1 allotted into the beam of light of said laser light in the location which separated small spacing from the front face of said transparency resin material and said nontransparent resin material.

[Claim 4]

Said joining resin is the laser joining approach of the resin member according to claim 1 beforehand allotted where said contact edge is contacted.

[Claim 5]

Said joining resin is the joining approach of a resin member according to claim 1 of having a line.

[Claim 6]

Said joining resin is the joining approach of a resin member according to claim 1 of having the shape of powder.

[Claim 7]

The transparency resin material which consists of transparency resin which is penetrable to the laser light as a source of heating. The laser joining approach which is made to carry out heating melting of the contact interface with the nontransparent resin material which consists of nontransparent resin which is opaque to this laser light by the exposure of this laser light from this transparency resin material side, and welds it is used. It is the laser joining approach of the resin member which scans this laser light to this contact interface of this transparency resin material and this nontransparent resin material, and welds this transparency resin material and this nontransparent resin material,

The laser joining approach of the resin member characterized by carrying out the pressure welding of this transparency resin material and this nontransparent resin material the front and behind a direction. [which are near / where this laser light of this contact interface was irradiated / the exposure section, and this laser light scans]

[Claim 8]

the direction in which said transparency resin material and said nontransparent resin material are pressed

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by each aforementioned contact edge -- receiving -- abbreviation -- the flange which projected in the vertical direction forms -- having

The laser joining approach of a resin member according to claim 7 that the fitting crevice into which these fitting heights can fit was established in this flange of this nontransparent resin material while fitting heights were prepared in this flange of this transparency resin material.

[Claim 9]

A cross-section concave letter-like slot is formed in the front face which faced in opposite directions to the front face in which the front face which faced in opposite directions to the front face in which said fitting heights of said flange of said transparency resin material were formed, and/or said fitting crevice of said flange of said nontransparent resin material were formed,

The laser joining approach of a resin member according to claim 8 of having the roller with which the press member which presses this transparency resin material and this nontransparent resin material when irradiating laser light runs the interior of this slot.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]

This invention relates to the laser joining approach of a resin member.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]

It is performed frequently that the components of various fields, such as autoparts, are resinified and resin mold goods take more in recent years than viewpoints, such as lightweight-izing and low-cost-izing. And resin mold goods divided and fabricated resin mold goods from viewpoints, such as a raise in productivity, to two or more resin members beforehand, and a means to join mutually and to manufacture these resin members is taken more often.

[0003]

And the laser joining approach is used for the junction approach which joins resin members. Laser joining is the approach of making carry out heating melting of the contact sides of transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material, and joining both in one by irradiating laser light from a transparency resin material side, after piling up the transparency resin material which is penetrable to laser light, and the nontransparent resin material which is opaque to laser light.

[0004]

In this laser joining approach, the laser light which the laser light which penetrated the inside of transparency resin material arrived at the contact side of nontransparent resin material, was absorbed, and was absorbed by this contact side is accumulated as energy. Consequently, while heating melting of the contact side of nontransparent resin material is carried out, heating melting of the contact side of transparency resin material is carried out by heat transfer from the contact side of this nontransparent resin material. Both are joined in one by making the contact sides of transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material stick by pressure in this condition.

[0005]

By the way, in laser joining which was described above, in order to carry out joining of the contact sides of transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material certainly and to obtain sufficient bonding strength, it is not necessary to make the clearance between the contact sides of transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material small or anything as much as possible. If a clearance is located in a contact side, generation of heat in the contact side of nontransparent resin material will become that heat transfer is hard to be carried out to the contact side of transparency resin material. Heating melting in the contact side of transparency resin material serves as imperfection, and the contact sides of nontransparent resin material and transparency resin material stop and fully welding. [0006]

Furthermore, when a clearance exists in the contact side of nontransparent resin material and transparency resin material, even if joining is performed by laser joining, there is a problem that sufficient joining reinforcement is not obtained. If laser joining is performed in detail after the clearance has existed in the contact side of nontransparent resin material and transparency resin material, a clearance will be filled with melting expansion when nontransparent resin material fuses, and joining will be carried out. That is, the apparent density gravity of nontransparent resin material is falling. For this reason, joining reinforcement falls. And joining reinforcement comes to fall as the amount of clearances in a contact side increases. The relation between this amount of contact side clearances and joining reinforcement was shown in drawing 9.

[0007]

And if the configuration of a resin member becomes complicated or the magnitude of a resin member becomes large, it will become easy to produce the clearance between contact sides. If the configuration of a resin member becomes complicated, a contact side will serve as a complicated configuration and it will be hard coming to carry out a pressure welding at the time of joining. Moreover, if the magnitude of a resin member becomes large, camber, and a wave or torsion will come to arise on the front face of a resin member, a gap will come to arise in a contact side, and a clearance will come to be generated by this gap. [0008]

[The technical problem which is going to solve invention]

This invention is considered in the above-mentioned actual condition, is made, and let it be a technical problem to offer the joining approach of the resin member which does not produce poor joining. [0009]

[Means for Solving the Problem]

In order to solve the above-mentioned technical problem, this invention persons found out that the above-mentioned technical problem was solvable by supplying the melting liquid of nontransparent resin to the contact side of a resin member, and filling a clearance.

[0010]

Namely, the laser joining approach of the resin member of this invention The transparency resin material which consists of transparency resin which is penetrable to the laser light as a source of heating, A contact interface with the nontransparent resin material which consists of nontransparent resin which is opaque to laser light It is the laser joining approach of the resin member which is made to carry out heating melting by the exposure of the laser light from a transparency resin material side, and is welded, and the joining resin which consists of nontransparent resin is arranged into the beam of light of laser light, heating fusion is carried out, and it is characterized by supplying the melting liquid of joining resin to the contact section of both resin material.

[0011]

The melting liquid of joining resin is supplied to the contact section of resin material, and the laser joining approach of the resin member of this invention carries out the seal of the contact section of both resin material because melting liquid congeals in this contact section. Furthermore, when the clearance is generated in the interface of resin material, generating of poor joining can be pressed down by melting liquid trespassing upon this clearance and filling a clearance.

[0012]

Moreover, it found out that generating of a clearance could be pressed down by pressing near [where the laser light of resin material was irradiated] the contact section of resin material as other approaches of solving the above-mentioned technical problem.

[0013]

Namely, the laser joining approach of the resin member of this invention The transparency resin material which consists of transparency resin which is penetrable to the laser light as a source of heating, The laser joining approach which is made to carry out heating melting of the contact interface with the nontransparent resin material which consists of nontransparent resin which is opaque to laser light by the exposure of the laser light from a transparency resin material side, and welds it is used. It is the laser joining approach of the resin member which scans laser light to the contact interface of transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material, and welds transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material. It is characterized by carrying out the pressure welding of transparency resin material and the nontransparent resin material the front and behind a direction. [which are near / where the laser light of a contact interface was irradiated / the exposure section, and laser light scans] [0014]

The laser joining approach of the resin member of this invention is carrying out the pressure welding of transparency resin material and the nontransparent resin material [near / where laser light was irradiated / the exposure section], and has secured the adhesion of the transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material in the exposure section by which laser light was irradiated. Moreover, the laser joining approach of the resin member of this invention can carry out laser welding of the resin member which was able to suppress generating of poor joining at one joining process.

[0015]

[Embodiment of the Invention]

(The first invention)

The laser joining approach of the resin member of this invention is the laser joining approach of the resin

member which is made to carry out heating melting of the contact interface of the transparency resin material which consists of transparency resin which is penetrable to the laser light as a source of heating, and the nontransparent resin material which consists of nontransparent resin which is opaque to laser light by the exposure of the laser light from a transparency resin material side, and welds it.

[0016]

The laser light which the laser light which penetrated the inside of transparency resin material arrived at the contact side of nontransparent resin material, and this laser joining was absorbed, and was absorbed by this contact side is accumulated as energy. Consequently, while heating melting of the contact side of nontransparent resin material is carried out, heating melting of the contact side of transparency resin material is carried out by heat transfer from the contact side of this nontransparent resin material. In this condition, the contact sides of transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material are made to stick by pressure, and both are joined in one. In this way, in the obtained joint, among planes of composition, melting of the planes of composition is carried out, and they are joined, and both the resin that constitutes both resin material fuses, and since the condition of having entered mutually and having twined is formed, a firm junction condition is constituted and it has high bonding strength and high pressure resistance.

[0017]

[0018]

The laser joining approach of the resin member of this invention arranges the joining resin which consists of nontransparent resin into the beam of light of laser light, carries out heating fusion, and supplies the melting liquid of joining resin to the contact section of both resin material. If joining resin is arranged into the beam of light of the laser light which is irradiating the contact interface, since joining resin consists of nontransparent resin, joining resin will be heated by laser light. And joining resin is fused. And the melting liquid of the joining resin produced by melting is supplied to the contact section of both resin material. The condition that the melting liquid supplied to the contact interface became entangled with the resin of the contact section like the tangle of both the resin in the contact section of both resin material is formed. Consequently, the seal nature of both resin material improves.

Furthermore, when the clearance is generated in the contact interface, the melting liquid of the joining resin supplied to the contact interface trespasses upon this clearance. A clearance is filled because melting liquid trespasses upon a clearance, and generating of poor joining is suppressed by it. Moreover, if melting liquid trespasses upon a clearance, heating to transparency resin material will be performed by own heat of melting liquid, and generating of poor joining of both resin material will be suppressed.

[0019]

It is desirable that the reservoir section which stores the melting liquid supplied to the periphery section of the contact edge of transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material was divided. By the reservoir section being prepared, the supplied melting liquid stops spilling out from a contact edge, and sufficient joining resin for a contact edge is supplied. Consequently, lowering of the bonding strength of both resin material is suppressed.

[0020]

In the joining approach of this invention, while fitting heights are prepared in the contact edge of transparency resin material, the fitting crevice which can insert fitting heights is established in the contact edge of nontransparent resin material. By a fitting crevice and fitting heights being prepared in the contact edge of resin material, both resin material can be positioned easily. Moreover, by a fitting crevice and fitting heights being formed in a contact edge, fitting heights can be inserted in a fitting crevice, joining can be carried out now by the surface section of fitting heights, and the wall of a fitting crevice, and the joining area of resin material increases. An increment of joining area increases the joining reinforcement of resin material.

[0021]

And when fitting heights are inserted in a fitting crevice and one surface section of fitting heights sticks with one wall of a fitting crevice, it is desirable that the reservoir section in which the melting liquid of joining resin is stored by other walls of a fitting crevice and the surface section of another side of fitting heights is divided. In the reservoir section being divided, the melting liquid of joining resin can be held at the contact edge.

[0022]

That is, while fitting heights are prepared in the contact edge of transparency resin material, it is desirable that the fitting crevice which can insert fitting heights is established in the contact edge of nontransparent resin material, joining of one wall of the opposite walls of the couple which forms a fitting crevice is carried

out to one surface section of fitting heights, and other walls of a fitting crevice and the surface section of another side of fitting heights divide the reservoir section in which the melting liquid of joining resin is stored.

[0023]

As for the wall of another side of the opposite wall of a couple in which the fitting crevice established in the contact edge of nontransparent resin material forms a fitting crevice, it is desirable to be formed in height lower than one wall. By irradiating laser light from an opposite wall side with lower height, it can suppress that the irradiated laser light is interrupted by nontransparent resin material (opposite wall of the side by which laser light is irradiated).

[0024]

As for joining resin, it is desirable to be allotted into the beam of light of laser light in the location which separated small spacing from the front face of transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material. By joining resin being arranged into the beam of light of the laser light of the location which separated small spacing from the front face of resin material, the loss of the laser light irradiated by the contact edge can be suppressed.

[0025]

In detail, if joining resin is arranged into the beam of light of laser light, the laser light irradiated by this joining resin will be absorbed by joining resin. At this time, the laser light which is not irradiated by joining resin is irradiated by the contact edge of resin material as it is. And the shadow corresponding to joining resin comes to arise in the laser light irradiated by the contact edge. The irradiated laser luminous energy is not supplied to the part corresponding to this shadow of a contact edge. And in this invention, the increment in the part used as this shadow can be suppressed by joining resin being arranged into the beam of light of laser light in the location which separated small spacing from the front face of transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material. By specifically controlling the joining resin arranged into the beam of light of laser light at the time of joining, the melting volume of the joining resin supplied to a contact edge can be adjusted, it is the phase where desired melting volume was supplied, joining resin can be removed from the beam of light of laser light, and sufficient laser light for joining can be irradiated. [0026]

In addition, the location which separated small spacing from the front face of the transparency resin material on which joining resin is arranged, and nontransparent resin material shows the location supplied to a contact edge after the joining resin fused by laser light has fused. Preferably, it is the vertical upper part of the contact edge where laser light was irradiated.

[0027]

As for joining resin, having been beforehand allotted, where a contact edge is contacted is desirable. That is, the loss of the heat of the melting liquid of joining resin not only does not arise, but it is suppressed by joining resin having been beforehand arranged on the contact edge that the impurity of the atmospheric—air middle class mixes at the time of migration (floating) of melting liquid. Furthermore, since laser light is irradiated where a contact edge is contacted in joining resin, a focal location can irradiate a near laser light and loss of energy can be suppressed.

[0028]

It is desirable to arrange joining resin on the reservoir section of an above-mentioned contact edge beforehand.

[0029]

Especially the gestalt of joining resin is not limited. For example, the shape of a line and powder can be raised.

[0030]

As for joining resin, it is desirable to have a line. Joining resin can be easily arranged into the beam of light of laser light because joining resin has a line. Furthermore, the dose (the amount of melting of joining resin) of the laser light of joining resin can be controlled now by having a line. When the melting liquid of the joining resin fused by laser light is fully supplied to a contact edge in detail, melting volume can be controlled by taking out joining resin out of a beam of light. As for linear joining resin, it is desirable that the size is thinner than the beam of light of laser light.

[0031]

As for joining resin, it is desirable to have the shape of powder. Powder-like joining resin can shorten the heating time for carrying out melting of the joining resin. That is, that the time amount for carrying out melting of the joining resin is shortened shows that melting of resin material is performed immediately. That is, it is hard coming to generate the heating nonuniformity of resin material. Furthermore, if joining resin

consists of a solid-state which has thickness, even if laser light is irradiated, by the time laser luminous energy reaches a rear-face side, time lag will arise, and the front-face side where laser light hits will become an elevated temperature from a rear-face side. Namely, a temperature gradient arises, and if a temperature gradient becomes large too much, decomposition by heat will arise depending on the construction material of joining resin. Moreover, joining resin may be the gestalt of the paste with which not only the gestalt of joining resin powder but joining resin powder distributes and becomes a desired dispersion medium that what is necessary is just to have the shape of powder.

[0032]

In the joining approach of this invention, as a class of resin used for nontransparent resin material, it has thermoplasticity, and especially if it may absorb without making the laser beam as a source of heating penetrate, it will not be limited. For example, what mixed predetermined coloring matters, such as carbon black, a color, and a pigment, in polyamides (PA), such as nylon 6 (PA6) and Nylon 66 (PA66), polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), a styrene acrylonitrile copolymer, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polystyrene, ABS, an acrylic (PMMA), a polycarbonate (PC), polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), PPS, etc. can be raised. In addition, what added reinforcement fiber, such as a glass fiber and carbon fiber, may be used if needed. [0033]

It will not be limited, especially if have thermoplasticity, the laser beam as a source of heating is made to penetrate above predetermined permeability and it gets as a class of resin used for transparency resin material. For example, polyamides (PA), such as nylon 6 (PA6) and Nylon 66 (PA66), polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), a styrene acrylonitrile copolymer, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polystyrene, ABS, an acrylic (PMMA), a polycarbonate (PC), polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), etc. can be mentioned. In addition, what added reinforcement fiber and coloring matters, such as a glass fiber and carbon fiber, may be used if needed.

[0034]

As resin used for the joining resin which consists of nontransparent resin, it has thermoplasticity, and especially if it may absorb without making the laser beam as a source of heating penetrate, it will not be limited. For example, what mixed predetermined coloring matters, such as carbon black, a color, and a pigment, in polyamides (PA), such as nylon 6 (PA6) and Nylon 66 (PA66), polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), a styrene acrylonitrile copolymer, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polystyrene, ABS, an acrylic (PMMA), a polycarbonate (PC), polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), PPS, etc. can be raised. In addition, what added reinforcement fiber, such as a glass fiber and carbon fiber, may be used if needed. [0035]

Moreover, about the combination of the resin used for transparency resin material, nontransparent resin material, and joining resin, it considers as the combination of what have compatibility mutually. As such combination, the combination of others, nylon 6, and Nylon 66, the combination of PET and PC, the combination of PC and PBT, etc. can be mentioned. [combination / of resin of the same kind, such as nylon 6 and Nylon 66,]

[0036]

As a class of laser light, it is relation with an absorption spectrum of transparency resin material, board thickness (transparency length), etc. which make laser light penetrate, and what has wavelength from which the permeability within transparency resin material becomes beyond a predetermined value is selected suitably. For example, glass:neodymium 3+ laser, YAG: Laser light, such as neodymium 3+ laser, ruby laser, He-Ne laser, krypton laser, an argon laser, H2 laser, N2 laser, and semiconductor laser, can be raised. As more desirable laser, YAG:neodymium 3+ laser (wavelength of laser light: 1060nm) and semiconductor laser (wavelength of laser light: 500-1000nm) can be raised.

[0037]

Although the wavelength of laser light cannot generally be determined since it changes with resin ingredients joined, it is desirable that it is 1060nm or less. If wavelength exceeds 1060nm, it will become difficult to carry out melting of the plane of composition mutually.

[0038]

Moreover, as for the output of laser light, it is desirable that it is 50-900W. If it becomes difficult for an output to be low and for the output of laser light to carry out melting of the plane of composition of a resin ingredient mutually less than [50W] and 900W are exceeded, an output will become superfluous and the problem of a resin ingredient evaporating or deteriorating will come to arise. [0039]

The melting liquid of joining resin is supplied to the contact section of resin material, and the laser joining approach of the resin member of this invention carries out the seal of the contact section of both resin

material because melting liquid congeals in this contact section. Furthermore, when the clearance is generated in the interface of resin material, generating of poor joining can be pressed down by melting liquid trespassing upon this clearance and filling a clearance. That is, the laser joining approach of the resin member of this invention can carry out laser welding of the resin member which was able to suppress generating of poor joining at one joining process.

[0040]

(The second invention)

The transparency resin material which consists of transparency resin with which the laser joining approach of the resin member of this invention is penetrable to the laser light as a source of heating. The laser joining approach which is made to carry out heating melting of the contact interface with the nontransparent resin material which consists of nontransparent resin which is opaque to laser light by the exposure of the laser light from a transparency resin material side, and welds it is used. It is the approach of scanning laser light to the contact interface of transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material, and welding transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material. [0041]

The laser light which the laser light which penetrated the inside of transparency resin material arrived at the contact side of nontransparent resin material, and laser joining was absorbed, and was absorbed by this contact side is accumulated as energy. Consequently, while heating melting of the contact side of nontransparent resin material is carried out, heating melting of the contact side of transparency resin material is carried out by heat transfer from the contact side of this nontransparent resin material. In this condition, the contact sides of transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material are made to stick by pressure, and both are joined in one. In this way, in the obtained joint, among planes of composition, melting of the planes of composition is carried out, and they are joined, and both the resin that constitutes both resin material fuses, and since the condition of having entered mutually and having twined is formed, a firm junction condition is constituted and it has high bonding strength and high pressure resistance.

[0042]

And the welding which transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material welded becomes long by scanning laser light to the contact interface of transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material. Moreover, the joining reinforcement of transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material is securable because a welding becomes long. [0043]

The pressure welding of transparency resin material and the nontransparent resin material is carried out the front and behind the direction. [which the laser joining approach of the resin member of this invention is near / where the laser light of a contact interface was irradiated / the exposure section, and laser light scans] A gap of the location of transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material stops arising at the time of laser joining by the pressure welding of both the resin material having been carried out in the front and the back of a scanning direction of laser light. Moreover, since the pressure welding of both the resin material is carried out near the exposure section, in order not to press the whole resin material, lowering of the joining precision of both resin material is suppressed. In addition, near [where the pressure welding of both the resin material is carried out] the exposure section is so desirable that it is near near as much as possible.

[0044]

the direction in which the pressure welding of transparency resin material and the nontransparent resin material is carried out to each contact edge — receiving — abbreviation — while the flange which projected in the vertical direction is formed and fitting heights are prepared in the flange of transparency resin material, it is desirable that the fitting crevice into which fitting heights can fit was established in the flange of nontransparent resin material.

[0045]

That is, the pressure welding of the contact edge of transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material can be carried out by pressing this flange by forming a flange in each of each contact edge of each resin material, the direction in which the pressure welding of the transparency resin material in which a flange projects, and the nontransparent resin material is carried out here — receiving — abbreviation — the thrust to which a vertical direction presses both resin material — receiving — abbreviation — a vertical direction is shown. Moreover, as for both the directions where the flange of each resin material projects, it is desirable that it is the same direction.

[0046]

Moreover, while fitting heights are prepared in the flange of transparency resin material, both resin material can be easily positioned at the time of joining by the fitting crevice into which fitting heights can fit being established in the flange of nontransparent resin material. Moreover, by a fitting crevice and fitting heights being formed in a contact edge, fitting heights can be inserted in a fitting crevice, joining can be carried out now by the surface section of fitting heights, and the wall of a fitting crevice, and the joining area of resin material increases. An increment of joining area increases the joining reinforcement of resin material. [0047]

As for the wall of another side of the opposite wall of a couple in which the fitting crevice established in the contact edge of nontransparent resin material forms a fitting crevice, it is desirable to be formed in height lower than one wall. By irradiating laser light from an opposite wall side with lower height, it can suppress that the irradiated laser light is interrupted by nontransparent resin material (opposite wall of the side by which laser light is irradiated).

[0048]

The press member which has the fixture of a couple compressible in the thickness direction after the flange of both resin material has carried out the laminating can perform press with transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material. That is, the pressure welding of both the resin member can be carried out by compressing the flange in the condition of having carried out the laminating in the thickness direction.

[0049]

As for a press member, having been formed in the laser light source and one is desirable. When spacing of the exposure section of laser light and the press member which are irradiated by the contact interface of resin material can be fixed and laser light is scanned by a press member and the laser light source being formed in one, it can suppress that laser light irradiates a press member. Moreover, since it has the effectiveness which can fix the exposure section of laser light, and the distance of a press member in a short distance, big and rough-ization of the physique of the equipment used for laser joining can be suppressed.

[0050]

It is desirable to have the roller with which the press member which presses transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material when a cross-section concave letter-like slot is formed in the front face which faced in opposite directions to the front face in which the front face which faced in opposite directions to the front face in which the fitting heights of the flange of transparency resin material were formed, and/or the fitting crevice of the flange of nontransparent resin material were formed and laser light is irradiated runs the interior of a slot.

[0051]

A cross-section concave letter-like slot is formed in one [at least] flange of both resin material, and laser light can be easily scanned at the time of laser joining by having the roller with which a press member runs the interior of this slot. That is, it can suppress that a slot and a roller function as a guide and both resin material shifts at the time of joining.

[0052]

In the joining approach of this invention, especially the thrust when carrying out the pressure welding of the contact interface of transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material is not limited. That is, a proper decision is made by the joining reinforcement demanded after the construction material of the transparency resin material by which joining is carried out, and nontransparent resin material, or joining. [0053]

In the joining approach of this invention, as a class of resin used for nontransparent resin material, it has thermoplasticity, and especially if it may absorb without making the laser beam as a source of heating penetrate, it will not be limited. For example, what mixed predetermined coloring matters, such as carbon black, a color, and a pigment, in polyamides (PA), such as nylon 6 (PA6) and Nylon 66 (PA66), polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), a styrene acrylonitrile copolymer, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polystyrene, ABS, an acrylic (PMMA), a polycarbonate (PC), polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), PPS, etc. can be raised. In addition, what added reinforcement fiber, such as a glass fiber and carbon fiber, may be used if needed. [0054]

It will not be limited, especially if have thermoplasticity, the laser beam as a source of heating is made to penetrate above predetermined permeability and it gets as a class of resin used for transparency resin material. For example, polyamides (PA), such as nylon 6 (PA6) and Nylon 66 (PA66), polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), a styrene acrylonitrile copolymer, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polystyrene, ABS, an acrylic (PMMA), a polycarbonate (PC), polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), etc. can be mentioned. In

addition, what added reinforcement fiber and coloring matters, such as a glass fiber and carbon fiber, may be used if needed.

[0055]

As a class of laser light, it is relation with an absorption spectrum of transparency resin material, board thickness (transparency length), etc. which make laser light penetrate, and what has wavelength from which the permeability within transparency resin material becomes beyond a predetermined value is selected suitably. For example, glass:neodymium 3+ laser, YAG: Laser light, such as neodymium 3+ laser, ruby laser, He-Ne laser, krypton laser, an argon laser, H2 laser, N2 laser, and semiconductor laser, can be raised. As more desirable laser, YAG:neodymium 3+ laser (wavelength of laser light: 1060nm) and semiconductor laser (wavelength of laser light: 500-1000nm) can be raised.

Although the wavelength of laser light cannot generally be determined since it changes with resin ingredients joined, it is desirable that it is 1060nm or less. If wavelength exceeds 1060nm, it will become difficult to carry out melting of the plane of composition mutually. [0057]

Moreover, as for the output of laser light, it is desirable that it is 50-900W. If it becomes difficult for an output to be low and for the output of laser light to carry out melting of the plane of composition of a resin ingredient mutually less than [50W] and 900W are exceeded, an output will become superfluous and the problem of a resin ingredient evaporating or deteriorating will come to arise.

[0058]

The laser joining approach of the resin member of this invention is carrying out the pressure welding of transparency resin material and the nontransparent resin material [near / where laser light was irradiated / the exposure section], and has secured the adhesion of the transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material in the exposure section by which laser light was irradiated. Moreover, the laser joining approach of the resin member of this invention can carry out laser welding of the resin member which was able to suppress generating of poor joining at one joining process.

[0059]

[Example]

Hereafter, this invention is explained using an example.

[0060]

As an example of this invention, laser joining of resin material was performed and resin mold goods were manufactured.

[0061]

In addition, the laser light used for laser joining is semiconductor laser whose wavelength is 940nm, and 50-900W, and working speed made the output 0.5 - 5 m/min.

[0062]

Moreover, the resin material in which joining is carried out by laser joining consists of transparency resin material 1 which consists of resin which has permeability to the above-mentioned laser light, and nontransparent resin material 2 which consists of resin which is opaque to the above-mentioned laser light.

[0063]

The resin which constitutes the transparency resin material 1 was nylon 6 glass reinforcement, and the permeability to laser light was 20% or more.

[0064]

The resin which constitutes the nontransparent resin material 2 mixed carbon black and a coloring matter in nylon 6 glass reinforcement, and the absorption coefficient over laser light was 80% or more. [0065]

That is, the transparency resin material 1 and the nontransparent resin material 2 consist of resin which has compatibility mutually.

[0066]

Permeability [here as opposed to laser light] irradiated laser light in the thickness direction of the resin formed in tabular [with a thickness of 3mm], and was determined by measuring with a spectrometer the laser light which penetrated this resin.

[0067]

Moreover, laser permeability irradiated laser light in the thickness direction of the resin formed in tabular [with a thickness of 3mm], and was determined by measuring with a spectrometer the laser light which penetrated this resin.

[0068]

(Example 1)

An example 1 is an example which arranged linear joining resin and performed laser joining of a resin member into the beam of light of laser light. The situation of laser joining of this example was shown in drawing 1 -2.

[0069]

The fitting heights 11 which project caudad are formed in the contact edge 10 as for which joining is carried out by laser joining of the transparency resin material 1. It is formed in the plane to which surface 11a of the side by which a laser beam is irradiated carries out abbreviation coincidence of these fitting heights 11 with the direction where the transparency resin material 1 is extended, and it inclines and surface 11b facing in opposite directions is formed so that thickness may become thin toward a head side (lower part side).

[0070]

The fitting crevice 21 where the above-mentioned fitting heights 11 are inserted is established in the contact edge 20 of the nontransparent resin material 2. This fitting crevice 21 is formed in the shape of [which can insert the above-mentioned fitting heights 11] a cross-section concave letter. And when the above-mentioned fitting heights 11 are inserted in the fitting crevice 21, it is formed so that it may be in agreement with surface 11b in which one wall 21b of the opposite walls 21a and 21b of the couple which forms the fitting crevice 21 was formed by the fitting heights 11 inclining. And wall 21a of another side (side by which laser light is irradiated) of the fitting crevice 21 is already kicked so that space can be formed between surface 11a of the side by which the laser light of the fitting heights 11 is irradiated. This space serves as the reservoir section 3. And wall 21a of another side of the fitting crevice 21 is formed in height lower than one wall 21b. That is, let the opposite wall of the side by which a laser beam is irradiated be height lower than the high opposite wall of an opposite hand.

[0071]

Laser joining of both the resin material 1 and 2 sets the transparency resin material 1 and the nontransparent resin material 2 to a position first. The transparency resin material 1 and the nontransparent resin material 2 are set so that surface 11b toward which the fitting heights 11 of the transparency resin material 1 inclined may contact the front face of one wall 21b of the fitting crevice 21 of the nontransparent resin material 2 in detail. It is in the condition of having stuck a part of apical surface of the fitting heights 11, and base of the fitting crevice 21, at this time. Moreover, both the resin material 1 and 2 was held so that a gap might not arise in the contact side of both the resin material 1 and 2. [0072]

And the above-mentioned laser light was irradiated at the contact interface of both the resin material 1 and 2. At this time, laser light was irradiated at the include angle which inclined to the direction (it sets to drawing 1 and 2, and is the direction of a vertical) where both the resin material 1 and 2 contacts. The laser light irradiated by this exposure can shorten the transparency length who penetrates the transparency resin material 1.

[0073]

And the linear resin wire 4 which is among the beam of light of laser light, and consists of resin which does not have permeability in the location of the vertical upper part of the reservoir section 3 to laser light was supplied. Supply of this resin wire 4 was performed to the laser head 51 which emits laser light at one using the already kicked resin wire feeder 52. This resin wire feeder 52 can supply the resin wire 4 continuously into the beam of light of the laser light irradiated from the laser head 51. The resin wire 4 arranged into the beam of light of laser light absorbs laser luminous energy, and temperature rises. And the resin wire 4 is fused, and melting liquid 41 falls from the resin wire 4, and it is stored by the reservoir section 3. [0074]

The resin wire 4 comes to mix carbon black and a coloring matter in nylon 6. The absorption coefficient [as opposed to laser light in this resin wire 4] was 80% or more. [0075]

Moreover, the laser light which is not absorbed by the resin wire 4 was irradiated by the contact interface of both the resin material 1 and 2 at this time. First, the laser light irradiated by the contact interface penetrates the transparency resin material 1, arrives at the front face of the nontransparent resin material 2, and is absorbed. And the laser light absorbed by the transparency resin material 2 is accumulated as energy. Consequently, while heating melting of the contact side of the nontransparent resin material 2 is carried out, heating melting of the contact side of the transparency resin material 1 is carried out by heat transfer from the contact side of this nontransparent resin material 2.

[0076]

In this condition, press the transparency resin material 1 and the nontransparent resin material 2, the contact sides of the fitting crevice 21 and the fitting heights 11 are made to stick by pressure, and both are joined in one. If the clearance exists in the contact interface of the transparency resin material 1 and the nontransparent resin material 2 at this time, the melting liquid 41 of the resin wire 4 dropped at the reservoir section 3 will trespass upon this clearance. And resin required for joining of the transparency resin material 1 and the nontransparent resin material 2 is supplied. Poor joining in a contact interface has stopped consequently, arising.

[0077]

In this way, in the obtained joint, among planes of composition, melting of the planes of composition is carried out, and they are joined, and both the resin that constitutes both resin material fuses, and since the condition of having entered mutually and having twined is formed, a firm junction condition is constituted and it has high bonding strength and high pressure resistance.

[0078]

Since the melting liquid of a resin wire is supplied, this melting liquid congeals in the outside-surface section of a contact interface, and the contact interface of both resin material has stopped moreover, being exposed to the front-face side of the contact interface of both resin material. That is, the seal nature of the resin Plastic solid with which it comes to carry out laser joining of both the resin material is improving.

[0079]

In addition, although this example was explained in partial laser joining, as shown in <u>drawing 3</u>, it can perform laser joining continuously by making laser light scan. At this time, the scan of laser light can be scanned at the rate which nontransparent resin material is fully heated and the melting liquid of a resin wire can fully supply.

[0080]

This example showed the effectiveness that generating of poor joining could be suppressed by the exposure of a one-time laser light.

[0081]

(Example 2)

Examples 2 are an example 1 and same example except having changed to the resin wire and having performed laser joining using powder-like joining resin. The situation at the time of joining was shown in drawing 4.

[0082]

Also in this example, like the example 1, the laser light from a laser head 51 was irradiated at the contact interface of the transparency resin material 1 and the nontransparent resin material 2, and joining resin powder 4' from the resin powder feeder 53 already kicked by a laser head 51 and one in this laser light was supplied. Here, joining resin powder 4' supplied into laser light was the powder formed from the same resin as the resin wire 4 of an example 1, and mean particle diameter was 50 micrometers. [0083]

Joining resin powder 4' supplied into the laser beam at the time of laser joining absorbs a laser beam, immediately, falls in the state of melting in the reservoir section 3, and is stored by the reservoir section 3. And the contact interface of the transparency resin material 1 and the nontransparent resin material 2 as well as an example 1 is supplied, and both the resin material 1 and 2 is welded.

[0084]

Also in the example 2, both resin material has been welded firmly, without producing poor joining like an example 1.

[0085]

In addition, also in this example, like an example 1, as shown in $\frac{drawing 5}{drawing 5}$, laser joining can be continuously performed by making laser light scan.

[0086]

moreover

(Example 3)

This example carried out laser welding of the resin material of the gestalt from which each contact edge of the transparency resin material by which joining was carried out in examples 1 and 2, and nontransparent resin material differs.

[0087]

The fitting heights 16 and ** in which the transparency resin material 1 of an example 3 projects under the

flange 15 which projected in the side by which laser light is irradiated by the contact edge 10 as for which joining is carried out by laser joining as the cross section was shown in <u>drawing 7</u>, and the flange 15 are prepared. These fitting heights 16 are making the cross-section configuration of the abbreviation trapezoidal shape which contracts gradually and projects toward a head side (lower part side). And let short dip side-face 16a of the side by which laser light is irradiated be die length shorter than long dip side-face 16b of an opposite hand. Moreover, the cross-section concave letter-like chamfer (not shown) is formed in the front face on which the fitting heights 16 of a flange 15 do not project. [0088]

Moreover, the fitting heights 15, the fitting crevice 26 divided in the cross section which can be fitted in, and ** are prepared in the contact edge 20 of the nontransparent resin material 2 at the front-face top of the flange 25 which projected in the side by which laser light is irradiated, and a flange 25. This fitting crevice 26 is made into the fitting heights 16 and the configuration to adjust, and is making the cross-section configuration of abbreviation trapezoidal shape where opening spreads gradually toward the upper part from a base. And on the other hand, as for 26a, inside [it is the opposite walls 26a and 26b of the couple which forms the fitting crevice 26] is formed in height lower than another side. That is, let low opposite wall 26a of the side by which a laser beam is irradiated be height lower than high opposite wall 26b of an opposite hand. In addition, the inner surface of a low opposite wall turns into a short dip side face by which laser joining is carried out in contact with a short dip side face, and the inner surface of a high opposite wall turns into a long dip side face by which laser joining is carried out in contact with a long dip side face.

[0089]

Laser joining of both the resin material 1 and 2 sets the transparency resin material 1 and the nontransparent resin material 2 to a position first. The fitting crevice 26 of the nontransparent resin material 2 was made to carry out fitting of the fitting heights 16 of transparency resin material in detail. And both the resin material 1 and 2 was held so that a gap might not arise in the contact side of both the resin material 1 and 2. In addition, in the condition that fitting of the fitting heights 16 was carried out to the fitting crevice 26, the flanges 15 and 25 of both the resin members 1 and 2 are in the condition of having carried out the laminating.

[0090]

It continued and laser joining was performed using laser joining equipment.

[0091]

The laser joining equipment used in this example has the press member 6 compressed in the thickness direction which carried out the laminating of the flange which was formed in one, and which carried out the laminating to the laser head (not shown) which irradiates the laser light which heats the contact interface of both resin material, and the laser head.

[0092]

The press member 6 has the roller 61 it runs along with a flange 15 while pressing the flange 15 of the transparency resin material 1 to a nontransparent resin material 2-way, and the press fixture 62 which presses the front face in which the fitting crevice 26 of the flange 25 of the nontransparent resin material 2 is not formed.

[0093]

Laser joining performed in this example is explained below.

[0094]

First, the transparency resin material 1 and the nontransparent resin material 2 are set to a position. The transparency resin material 1 and the nontransparent resin material 2 were set so that the fitting heights 15 of the transparency resin material 1 might be inserted in the fitting crevice 26 of the nontransparent resin material 2 and the front face of the fitting crevice 26 and the front face of the fitting heights 16 might contact in detail.

[0095]

And the press member 6 of laser joining equipment is set to the flanges 15 and 25 in the condition that the transparency resin material 1 and the nontransparent resin material 2 carried out the laminating, and flanges 15 and 25 are pressed. The roller 61 of the press member 6 was inserted in and set to the chamfer by which the roller 61 was formed in the flange 15 in the movable condition along with this chamfer at this time. By this press, the fitting crevice 26 and the fitting heights 16 stuck. In addition, the press by the press member 6 was pressed by the pressure which a clearance does not produce in the contact interface of the fitting crevice 26 and the fitting heights 16 in the condition of having fitted in. [0096]

Laser light is made to irradiate from a laser head, where the flanges 15 and 25 of both the resin material 1 and 2 are compressed. And it was made to scan, where this laser light is irradiated and laser joining equipment is guided with a roller 61. By the exposure of this laser light, as generated in examples 1 and 2, heating melting arose in the contact interface of both resin material, and both resin material produced joining.

[0097]

As mentioned above, joining of transparency resin material and the nontransparent resin material was carried out by making laser light scan.

[0098]

This example showed the effectiveness that generating of poor joining could be suppressed by the exposure of a one-time laser light.

[0099]

[Effect of the Invention]

The melting liquid of joining resin is supplied to the contact section of resin material, and the laser joining approach of the resin member of this invention carries out the seal of the contact section of both resin material because melting liquid congeals in this contact section. Furthermore, when the clearance is generated in the interface of resin material, generating of poor joining can be pressed down by melting liquid trespassing upon this clearance and filling a clearance. That is, the laser joining approach of the resin member of this invention can carry out laser welding of the resin member which was able to suppress generating of poor joining at one joining process.

[0100]

Moreover, the laser joining approach of the resin member of this invention is carrying out the pressure welding of transparency resin material and the nontransparent resin material [near / where laser light was irradiated / the exposure section], and has secured the adhesion of the transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material in the exposure section by which laser light was irradiated. The laser joining approach of the resin member of this invention can carry out laser welding of the resin member which was able to suppress generating of poor joining at one joining process.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is drawing having shown the condition that the transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material of an example 1 contacted in the contact edge.

[Drawing 2] It is drawing which observed from the side the condition of having irradiated laser light in the example 1.

[Drawing 3] It is drawing which observed the condition of having irradiated laser light in the example 1, from the upper part.

[Drawing 4] It is drawing having shown the condition of having irradiated laser light in the example 1.

[Drawing 5] It is drawing which observed from the side the condition of having irradiated laser light in the example 2.

[Drawing 6] It is drawing which observed the condition of having irradiated laser light in the example 2, from the upper part.

[Drawing 7] It is drawing having shown the condition that the transparency resin material and nontransparent resin material of an example 3 contacted in the contact edge.

[Drawing 8] It is drawing which observed the condition of having irradiated laser light in the example 3, from the upper part.

[Drawing 9] It is drawing having shown the relation between the amount of contact side clearances, and joining reinforcement.

[Description of Notations]

1 -- Transparency resin material 10 -- Contact edge

11 16 -- Fitting heights 15 -- Flange

2 -- Nontransparent resin material 20 -- Contact edge

21 26 -- Fitting crevice 25 -- Flange

3 -- Reservoir section

4 -- Resin wire 4' -- Joining resin powder

41 -- Melting liquid

51 -- Laser head 52 -- Resin wire feeder

53 -- Resin powder feeder

6 -- Press member 61 -- Roller

62 -- Press fixture

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

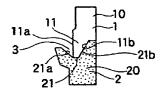
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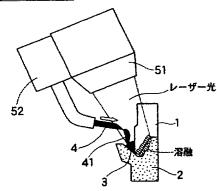
2.**** shows the word which can not be translated.
3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DRAWINGS

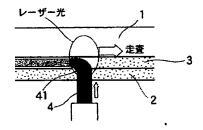
[Drawing 1]



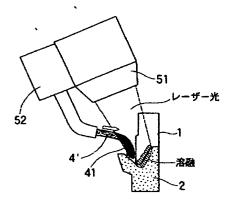
[Drawing 2]



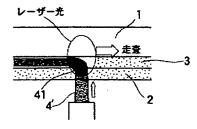
[Drawing 3]



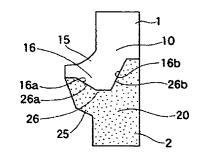
[Drawing 4]



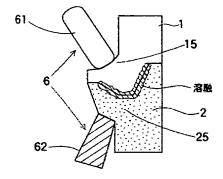
[Drawing 5]



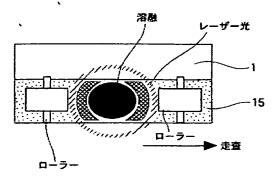
[Drawing 6]



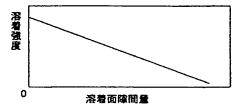
[Drawing 7]



[Drawing 8]



[Drawing 9]



[Translation done.]

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(54) 【発明の名称】歯脂部材のレーザー溶着方法

(57)【要約】

【課題】溶着不良を生じない樹脂部材の溶着方法を提供すること。

【解決手段】本発明の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法は、加熱源としてのレーザー光に対して透過性のある透過樹脂よりなる透過樹脂材と、レーザー光に対して透過性のない非透過樹脂よりなる非透過樹脂材との当接界面を、透過樹脂材側からのレーザー光の照射により加熱溶融させて溶着するレーザー溶着方法を利用している。本発明の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法は、一つの溶着工程で溶着不良の発生を抑えられた樹脂部材をレーザー溶着することができる。

【選択図】 なし

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】

加熱源としてのレーザー光に対して透過性のある透過樹脂よりなる透過樹脂材と、該レーザー光に対して透過性のない非透過樹脂よりなる非透過樹脂材との当接界面を、該透過樹脂材側からの該レーザー光の照射により加熱溶融させて溶着する樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法であって、

該非透過樹脂よりなる溶着樹脂を該レーザー光の光線中に配して加熱溶融し、該溶着樹脂 の溶融液を両樹脂材の当接端部に供給することを特徴とする樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法

【請求項2】

10

前記透過樹脂材の前記当接端部に嵌合凸部が設けられるとともに、前記非透過樹脂材の前 記当接端部に該嵌合凸部が挿入可能な嵌合凹部が設けられ、

該嵌合凹部を形成する一対の対向壁部のうちの一方の壁部が該嵌合凸部の一方の表面部と 溶着され、該嵌合凹部の他の壁部と該嵌合凸部の他方の表面部とが前記溶着樹脂の前記溶 融液が貯留される貯留部を区画する請求項 1 記載の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法。

【請求項3】

前記溶着樹脂は、前記透過樹脂材および前記非透過樹脂材の表面から小間隔を隔てた位置 で前記レーザー光の光線中に配される請求項1記載の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法。

【請求項4】

前記溶着樹脂は、前記当接端部に当接した状態であらかじめ配された請求項1記載の樹脂 20 部材のレーザー溶着方法。

【請求項 5】

前記溶着樹脂は、線状を有する請求項1記載の樹脂部材の溶着方法。

【請求項6】

前記溶着樹脂は、粉末状を有する請求項1記載の樹脂部材の溶着方法。

【請求項7】

加熱源としてのレーザー光に対して透過性のある透過樹脂よりなる透過樹脂材と、該レーザー光に対して透過性のない非透過樹脂よりなる非透過樹脂材との当接界面を、該透過樹脂材側からの該レーザー光の照射により加熱溶融させて溶着するレーザー溶着方法を利用して、該透過樹脂材と該非透過樹脂材との該当接界面に該レーザー光を走査して該透過樹脂材と該非透過樹脂材とを溶着する樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法であって、

該当接界面の該レーザー光が照射された照射部の近傍でありかつ該レーザー光の走査する 方向の前方及び後方で該透過樹脂材と該非透過樹脂材とが圧接されていることを特徴とす る樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法。

【請求項8】

各前記当接端部には、前記透過樹脂材と前記非透過樹脂材が押圧される方向に対して略垂 直な方向に突出したフランジ部が形成され、

該透過樹脂材の該フランジ部には嵌合凸部がもうけられるとともに、該非透過樹脂材の該 フランジ部には該嵌合凸部が嵌合可能な嵌合凹部がもうけられた請求項 7 記載の樹脂部材 のレーザー溶着方法。

【請求項9】

前記透過樹脂材の前記フランジ部の前記嵌合凸部の形成された表面に背向した表面および /または前記非透過樹脂材の前記フランジ部の前記嵌合凹部の形成された表面に背向した 表面に断面凹字状の溝が形成され、

レーザー光を照射するときに該透過樹脂材と該非透過樹脂材を押圧する押圧部材が、該溝 の内部を走行するローラーを有する請求項 8 記載の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】

本発明は、樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法に関する。

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[0002]

【従来の技術】

近年、軽量化及び低コスト化等の観点より、自動車部品等、各種分野の部品を樹脂化して 樹脂成形品とすることが頻繁に行われている。そして、樹脂成形品は、高生産性化等の観 点から、樹脂成形品を予め複数の樹脂部材に分割して成形し、これらの樹脂部材を互いに 接合して製造する手段が採られることが多くなっている。

[0003]

そして、樹脂部材同士を接合する接合方法には、レーザー溶着方法が利用されている。レーザー溶着は、レーザー光に対して透過性のある透過樹脂材と、レーザー光に対して透過性のない非透過樹脂材とを重ね合わせた後、透過樹脂材側からレーザー光を照射することにより、透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材との当接面同士を加熱溶融させて両者を一体的に接合する方法である。

[0004]

このレーザ溶着方法においては、透過樹脂材内を透過したレーザー光が非透過樹脂材の当接面に到達して吸収され、この当接面に吸収されたレーザー光がエネルギーとして蓄積される。その結果、非透過樹脂材の当接面が加熱溶融されるとともに、この非透過樹脂材の当接面からの熱伝達により透過樹脂材の当接面が加熱溶融される。この状態で、透過樹脂材及び非透過樹脂材の当接面同士を圧着させることで、両者が一体的に接合される。

[0005]

ところで、上記したようなレーザー溶着では、透過樹脂材および非透過樹脂材の当接面同 20 士を確実に溶着させて十分な接合強度を得るためには、透過樹脂材および非透過樹脂材の当接面同士の隙間を極力小さくまたは無しにする必要がある。当接面に隙間があると、非透過樹脂材の当接面における発熱が透過樹脂材の当接面に熱伝達されにくくなる。そして、透過樹脂材の当接面における加熱溶融が不十分となって、非透過樹脂材と透過樹脂材とあり当接面同士が十分に溶着しなくなる。

[0006]

さらに、非透過樹脂材と透過樹脂材との当接面に隙間が存在すると、レーザー溶着により溶着が行われても、充分な溶着強度が得られないという問題がある。詳しくは、非透過樹脂材と透過樹脂材との当接面に隙間が存在した状態でレーザー溶着が行われると、非透過樹脂材が溶融したときの溶融膨張により隙間が埋められて溶着される。すなわち、非透過 30 樹脂材の見かけ密度が低下している。このため、溶着強度が低下する。そして、当接面における隙間量が増加するにしたがって、溶着強度が低下するようになる。この当接面隙間量と溶着強度の関係を図9に示した。

[0007]

そして、当接面の隙間は、樹脂部材の形状が複雑になったり、樹脂部材の大きさが大きくなったりすると、生じやすくなる。樹脂部材の形状が複雑になると、当接面が複雑な形状となり溶着時に圧接しにくくなる。また、樹脂部材の大きさが大きくなると、樹脂部材の表面にそりやうねりあるいはねじれが生じるようになり、当接面にずれが生じるようになり、このずれにより隙間が生じるようになる。

[0008]

【発明を解決しようとする課題】

本発明は上記実状に考えてなされたものであり、溶着不良を生じない樹脂部材の溶着方法を提供することを課題とする。

[0009]

【課題を解決するための手段】

上記課題を解決するために本発明者らは樹脂部材の当接面に非透過樹脂の溶融液を供給して隙間を埋めることで上記課題を解決できることを見いだした。

[0010]

すなわち、本発明の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法は、加熱源としてのレーザー光に対して 透過性のある透過樹脂よりなる透過樹脂材と、レーザー光に対して透過性のない非透過樹 50

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脂よりなる非透過樹脂材との当接界面を、透過樹脂材側からのレーザー光の照射により加熱溶融させて溶着する樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法であって、非透過樹脂よりなる溶着樹脂をレーザー光の光線中に配して加熱溶融し、溶着樹脂の溶融液を両樹脂材の当接部に供給することを特徴とする。

[0011]

本発明の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法は、溶着樹脂の溶融液が樹脂材の当接部に供給され、この当接部において溶融液が凝固することで両樹脂材の当接部をシールする。さらに、 樹脂材の界面に隙間が生じている時には、この隙間に溶融液が侵入して隙間を埋めること で溶着不良の発生を押さえることができる。

[0012]

また、上記課題を解決する他の方法としては、樹脂材のレーザー光が照射された樹脂材の 当接部の近傍を押圧することで、隙間の発生を押さえることができることを見いだした。 【0013】

すなわち、本発明の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法は、加熱源としてのレーザー光に対して透過性のある透過樹脂よりなる透過樹脂材と、レーザー光に対して透過性のない非透過樹脂よりなる非透過樹脂材との当接界面を、透過樹脂材側からのレーザー光の照射により加熱溶融させて溶着するレーザー溶着方法を利用して、透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材との当接界面にレーザー光を走査して透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材とを溶着する樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法であって、当接界面のレーザー光が照射された照射部の近傍でありかつレーザー光の走査する方向の前方及び後方で透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材とが圧接されていることをで数とする。

[0014]

本発明の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法は、レーザー光が照射された照射部の近傍において 透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材とを圧接させることで、レーザー光が照射された照射部におけ る透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材との密着性を確保している。また、本発明の樹脂部材のレー ザー溶着方法は、一つの溶着工程で溶着不良の発生を抑えられた樹脂部材をレーザー溶着 することができる。

[0015]

【発明の実施の形態】

(第一発明)

本発明の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法は、加熱源としてのレーザー光に対して透過性のある透過樹脂よりなる透過樹脂材と、レーザー光に対して透過性のない非透過樹脂よりなる非透過樹脂材との当接界面を、透過樹脂材側からのレーザー光の照射により加熱溶融させて溶着する樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法である。

[0016]

このレーザー溶着は、透過樹脂材内を透過したレーザー光が非透過樹脂材の当接面に到達して吸収され、この当接面に吸収されたレーザー光がエネルギーとして蓄積される。その結果、非透過樹脂材の当接面が加熱溶融されるとともに、この非透過樹脂材の当接面からの熱伝達により透過樹脂材の当接面が加熱溶融される。この状態で、透過樹脂材及び非透過樹脂材の当接面同士を圧着させて、両者を一体的に接合する。こうして得られた接合部 40では、接合面同士が溶融されて接合されており、接合面同士の間では両樹脂材を構成する両樹脂が溶融して互いに入り込み絡まった状態が形成されているため、強固な接合状態を構成して高い接合強度及び耐圧強度を有している。

[0017]

本発明の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法は、非透過樹脂よりなる溶着樹脂をレーザー光の光線中に配して加熱溶融し、溶着樹脂の溶融液を両樹脂材の当接部に供給する。溶着樹脂を当接界面を照射しているレーザー光の光線中に配すると、溶着樹脂が非透過樹脂よりなることから、溶着樹脂はレーザー光により加熱される。そして、溶着樹脂は溶融する。そして、溶融により生じた溶着樹脂の溶融液は、両樹脂材の当接部に供給される。当接界面に供給された溶融液は、両樹脂材の当接部における両樹脂の絡み合いと同様に、当接部の樹 50

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脂と絡み合った状態が形成される。この結果、両樹脂材のシール性が向上する。

[0018]

さらに、当接界面に隙間が生じていたときには、当接界面に供給された溶着樹脂の溶融液がこの隙間に侵入する。隙間に溶融液が侵入することで、隙間が埋められて、溶着不良の発生が抑えられる。また、隙間に溶融液が侵入すると、溶融液自身の熱により透過樹脂材への加熱が行われ、両樹脂材の溶着不良の発生が抑えられる。

[0019]

透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材の当接端部の外周部には、供給された溶融液を貯留する貯留部が区画されたことが好ましい。貯留部がもうけられることで、供給された溶融液が当接端部から流失しなくなり、当接端部に充分な溶着樹脂が供給される。この結果、両樹脂材の 10 接合強度の低下が抑えられる。

[0020]

本発明の溶着方法において、透過樹脂材の当接端部に嵌合凸部が設けられるとともに、非透過樹脂材の当接端部に嵌合凸部が挿入可能な嵌合凹部が設けられている。樹脂材の当接端部に嵌合凹部及び嵌合凸部がもうけられることで、両樹脂材の位置決めを簡単に行うことができる。また、嵌合凹部と嵌合凸部とが当接端部に形成されることで、嵌合凹部に嵌合凸部を挿入して嵌合凸部の表面部と嵌合凹部の壁部とで溶着させることができるようになり、樹脂材同士の溶着面積が増大する。溶着面積が増加すると、樹脂材の溶着強度が増加する。

[0021]

そして、嵌合凹部に嵌合凸部が挿入されて、嵌合凸部の一方の表面部が嵌合凹部の一方の 壁部と密着したときに、嵌合凹部の他の壁部と嵌合凸部の他方の表面部とにより溶着樹脂 の溶融液が貯留される貯留部が区画されることが好ましい。貯留部が区画されることで、 溶着樹脂の溶融液を当接端部に保持できる。

[0022]

すなわち、透過樹脂材の当接端部に嵌合凸部が設けられるとともに、非透過樹脂材の当接端部に嵌合凸部が挿入可能な嵌合凹部が設けられ、嵌合凹部を形成する一対の対向壁部のうちの一方の壁部が嵌合凸部の一方の表面部と溶着され、嵌合凹部の他の壁部と嵌合凸部の他方の表面部とが溶着樹脂の溶融液が貯留される貯留部を区画することが好ましい。

[0023]

非透過樹脂材の当接端部に設けられた嵌合凹部は、嵌合凹部を形成する一対の対向壁部の他方の壁部は一方の壁部よりも低い高さで形成されていることが好ましい。高さの低い方の対向壁部側からレーザー光を照射することにより、照射されたレーザー光が非透過樹脂材(レーザー光が照射される側の対向壁部)で遮られることを抑えることができる。

[0024]

溶着樹脂は、透過樹脂材および非透過樹脂材の表面から小間隔を隔てた位置でレーザー光の光線中に配されることが好ましい。溶着樹脂が樹脂材の表面から小間隔を隔てた位置のレーザー光の光線中に配されることで、当接端部に照射されるレーザー光のロスを抑えることができる。

[0025]

詳しくは、レーザー光の光線中に溶着樹脂を配すると、この溶着樹脂に照射されたレーザー光は溶着樹脂に吸収される。このとき、溶着樹脂に照射されないレーザー光は、そのまま、樹脂材の当接端部に照射される。そして、当接端部に照射されたレーザー光には、溶着樹脂に対応する影が生じるようになる。当接端部のこの影に対応した部位には、照射されたレーザー光のエネルギーが供給されない。そして、本発明において溶着樹脂が透過樹脂材および非透過樹脂材の表面から小間隔を隔てた位置でレーザー光の光線中に配されることで、この影となる部分の増加を抑えることができる。具体的には、溶着時にレーザー光の光線中に配される溶着樹脂を制御することで、当接端部に供給される溶着樹脂の溶融液量を調節でき、所望の溶融液量が供給された段階で、溶着樹脂をレーザー光の光線からはずして、溶着に十分なレーザー光の照射を行うことができる。

[0026]

なお、溶着樹脂が配される透過樹脂材および非透過樹脂材の表面から小間隔を隔てた位置 とは、レーザー光により溶融した溶着樹脂が溶融した状態で当接端部に供給される位置を 示す。好ましくは、レーザー光が照射された当接端部の鉛直上方である。

[0027]

溶着樹脂は、当接端部に当接した状態であらかじめ配されたことが好ましい。すなわち、あらかじめ溶着樹脂が当接端部に配されたことで、溶着樹脂の溶融液の熱のロスが生じないだけでなく、溶融液の移動(流動)時に大気中等の不純物が混入することが抑えられる。さらに、溶着樹脂を当接端部に当接した状態でレーザー光を照射するため、焦点位置が近いレーザー光を照射でき、エネルギーの損失を抑えることができる。

[0028]

上述の当接端部の貯留部に溶着樹脂をあらかじめ配することが好ましい。

[0029]

溶着樹脂の形態は、特に限定されるものではない。たとえば、線状、粉末状をあげること ができる。

[0030]

溶着樹脂は、線状を有することが好ましい。溶着樹脂が線状を有することで、簡単にレーザー光の光線中に溶着樹脂を配することができる。さらに、線状を有することで、溶着樹脂のレーザー光の照射量(溶着樹脂の溶融量)を制御できるようになる。詳しくは、レーザー光により溶融した溶着樹脂の溶融液が当接端部に十分に供給されたときには、溶着樹脂を光線中から取り出すことで溶融液量を制御できる。線状の溶着樹脂は、その太さがレーザー光の光線より細いことが好ましい。

[0031]

溶着樹脂は、粉末状を有することが好ましい。粉末状の溶着樹脂は、溶着樹脂を溶融させるための加熱時間を短縮できる。すなわち、溶着樹脂を溶融させるための時間が短縮することは、すぐに樹脂材の溶融が行われることを示す。すなわち、樹脂材の加熱ムラが生じにくくなる。さらに、溶着樹脂が厚みを有する固体よりなると、レーザー光が照射されても裏面側にレーザー光のエネルギーが到達するまでにタイムラグが生じ、レーザー光があたる表面側は裏面側より高温になる。すなわち、温度差が生じ、温度差が大きくなりすぎると溶着樹脂の材質によっては熱による分解が生じる。また、溶着樹脂は、粉末状を有していればよく、溶着樹脂粉末の形態だけでなく、溶着樹脂粉末が所望の分散媒に分散してなるペーストの形態であってもよい。

[0032]

本発明の溶着方法において、非透過樹脂材に用いる樹脂の種類としては、熱可塑性を有し、加熱源としてのレーザ光を透過させずに吸収しうるものであれば特に限定されない。たとえば、ナイロン6(PA6)やナイロン66(PA66)等のポリアミド(PA)、ポリエチレン(PE)、ポリプロピレン(PP)、スチレンーアクリロニトリル共重合体、ポリエチレンテレフタレート(PET)、ポリスチレン、ABS、アクリル(PMMA)、ポリカーボネート(PC)、ポリブチレンテレフタレート(PBT)、PPS等に、カーボンブラック、染料や顔料等の所定の着色材を混入したものをあげることができる。なお、必要に応じて、ガラス繊維、カーボン繊維等の補強繊維を添加したものを用いてもよい。

[0033]

透過樹脂材に用いる樹脂の種類としては、熱可塑性を有し、加熱源としてのレーザ光を所定の透過率以上で透過させうるものであれば特に限定されない。たとえば、ナイロン6(PA6)やナイロン66(PA66)等のポリアミド(PA)、ポリエチレン(PE)、ポリプロピレン(PP)、スチレンーアクリロニトリル共重合体、ポリエチレンテレフタレート(PET)、ポリスチレン、ABS、アクリル(PMMA)、ポリカーボネート(PC)、ポリブチレンテレフタレート(PBT)等を挙げることができる。なお、必要に応じて、ガラス繊維、カーボン繊維等の補強繊維や着色材を添加したものを用いてもよい 50

[0034]

非透過樹脂よりなる溶着樹脂に用いる樹脂としては、熱可塑性を有し、加熱源としてのレ ーザ光を透過させずに吸収しうるものであれば特に限定されない。たとえば、ナイロン 6 (PA6) やナイロン66 (PA66) 等のポリアミド (PA) 、ポリエチレン (PE) 、ポリプロピレン(PP)、スチレン-アクリロニトリル共重合体、ポリエチレンテレフ タレート (PET) 、ポリスチレン、ABS、アクリル (PMMA) 、ポリカーボネート (PC)、ポリブチレンテレフタレート(PBT)、PPS等に、カーボンブラック、柴 料や顔料等の所定の着色材を混入したものをあげることができる。なお、必要に応じて、 ガラス繊維、カーボン繊維等の補強繊維を添加したものを用いてもよい。

[0035]

また、透過樹脂材、非透過樹脂材および溶着樹脂に用いる樹脂の組合せについては、互い に相溶性のあるもの同士の組合せとされる。このような組合せとしては、ナイロン6同士 やナイロン66同士等、同種の樹脂同士の組合せの他、ナイロン6とナイロン66との組 合せ、PETとPCとの組合せやPCとPBTとの組合せ等を挙げることができる。

[0036] レーザー光の種類としては、レーザー光を透過させる透過樹脂材の吸収スペクトルや板厚 (透過長) 等との関係で、透過樹脂材内での透過率が所定値以上となるような波長を有す るものが適宜選定される。例えば、ガラス:ネオジム3 + レーザー、YAG:ネオジム3 ⁺ レーザー、ルビーレーザー、ヘリウムーネオンレーザー、クリプトンレーザー、アルゴ 20 ンレーザー、H,レーザー、N,レーザー、半導体レーザー等のレーザー光をあげること ができる。より好ましいレーザーとしては、YAG:ネオジム³ + レーザー (レーザー光 の波長:1060nm) や半導体レーザー (レーザー光の波長:500~1000nm) をあげることができる。

[0037]

レーザー光の波長は、接合される樹脂材料により異なるため一概に決定できないが、10 60 nm以下であることが好ましい。波長が 1060 nmを超えると、接合面を互いに溶 融させることが困難となる。

[0038]

また、レーザー光の出力は、50~900Wであることが好ましい。レーザー光の出力が 30 50W未満では、出力が低く樹脂材料の接合面を互いに溶融させることが困難となり、9 ○ 0 Wを超えると、出力が過剰となり樹脂材料が蒸発したり、変質するという問題が生じ るようになる。

[0039]

本発明の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法は、溶着樹脂の溶融液が樹脂材の当接部に供給され 、この当接部において溶融液が凝固することで両樹脂材の当接部をシールする。さらに、 樹脂材の界面に隙間が生じている時には、この隙間に溶融液が侵入して隙間を埋めること で溶着不良の発生を押さえることができる。すなわち、本発明の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着 方法は、一つの溶着工程で溶着不良の発生を抑えられた樹脂部材をレーザー溶着すること ができる。

[0040]

(第二発明)

本発明の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法は、加熱源としてのレーザー光に対して透過性のあ る透過樹脂よりなる透過樹脂材と、レーザー光に対して透過性のない非透過樹脂よりなる 非透過樹脂材との当接界面を、透過樹脂材側からのレーザー光の照射により加熱溶融させ て溶着するレーザー溶着方法を利用して、透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材との当接界面にレー ザー光を走査して透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材とを溶着する方法である。

[0041]

レーザー溶着は、透過樹脂材内を透過したレーザー光が非透過樹脂材の当接面に到達して 吸収され、この当接面に吸収されたレーザー光がエネルギーとして蓄積される。その結果 50

、非透過樹脂材の当接面が加熱溶融されるとともに、この非透過樹脂材の当接面からの熱 伝達により透過樹脂材の当接面が加熱溶融される。この状態で、透過樹脂材及び非透過樹脂材の当接面同士を圧着させて、両者を一体的に接合する。こうして得られた接合部では 、接合面同士が溶融されて接合されており、接合面同士の間では両樹脂材を構成する両樹脂が溶融して互いに入り込み絡まった状態が形成されているため、強固な接合状態を構成 して高い接合強度及び耐圧強度を有している。

[0042]

そして、透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材との当接界面にレーザー光を走査することで、透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材とが溶着した溶着部が長くなる。また、溶着部が長くなることで、透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材との溶着強度が確保できる。

[0043]

本発明の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法は、当接界面のレーザー光が照射された照射部の近傍でありかつレーザー光の走査する方向の前方及び後方で透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材とが圧接されている。レーザー光の走査方向の前方および後方において両樹脂材が圧接されたことで、レーザー溶着時に透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材との位置のずれが生じなくなる。また、照射部の近傍で両樹脂材を圧接していることから、樹脂材全体を押圧しないため、両樹脂材の溶着精度の低下が抑えられる。なお、両樹脂材が圧接される照射部の近傍は、可能な限り近いほど好ましい。

[0044]

各当接端部には透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材が圧接される方向に対して略垂直な方向に突出 20 したフランジ部が形成され、透過樹脂材のフランジ部には嵌合凸部がもうけられるとともに、非透過樹脂材のフランジ部には嵌合凸部が嵌合可能な嵌合凹部がもうけられたことが好ましい。

[0045]

すなわち、各樹脂材の各当接端部のそれぞれにフランジ部を形成することで、このフランジ部を押圧することで、透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材の当接端部を圧接することができる。ここで、フランジ部が突出する透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材が圧接される方向に対して略垂直な方向とは、両樹脂材を押圧する押圧力に対して略垂直な方向を示す。また、各樹脂材のフランジ部の突出する方向は、ともに同じ方向であることが好ましい。

[0046]

また、透過樹脂材のフランジ部には嵌合凸部がもうけられるとともに、非透過樹脂材のフランジ部には嵌合凸部が嵌合可能な嵌合凹部がもうけられることで、溶着時に両樹脂材の位置決めを簡単に行うことができる。また、嵌合凹部と嵌合凸部とが当接端部に形成されることで、嵌合凹部に嵌合凸部を挿入して嵌合凸部の表面部と嵌合凹部の壁部とで溶着させることができるようになり、樹脂材同士の溶着面積が増大する。溶着面積が増加すると、樹脂材の溶着強度が増加する。

[0047]

非透過樹脂材の当接端部に設けられた嵌合凹部は、嵌合凹部を形成する一対の対向壁部の他方の壁部は一方の壁部よりも低い高さで形成されていることが好ましい。高さの低い方の対向壁部側からレーザー光を照射することにより、照射されたレーザー光が非透過樹脂 40材(レーザー光が照射される側の対向壁部)で遮られることを抑えることができる。

[0048]

透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材との押圧は、両樹脂材のフランジ部が積層した状態で厚さ方向 に圧縮することができる一対の治具を有する押圧部材により行うことができる。すなわち 、積層した状態のフランジ部を厚さ方向に圧縮することで、両樹脂部材を圧接できる。

[0049]

押圧部材は、レーザー光源と一体に形成されたことが好ましい。押圧部材とレーザー光源が一体に形成されることで、樹脂材の当接界面に照射されるレーザー光の照射部と押圧部材との間隔を固定することができ、レーザー光を走査したときにレーザー光が押圧部材を照射することを抑えられる。また、レーザー光の照射部と押圧部材の距離を短い距離で固

定できる効果を有するため、レーザー溶着に用いられる装置の体格の粗大化を抑えることができる。

[0050]

透過樹脂材のフランジ部の嵌合凸部の形成された表面に背向した表面および/または非透過樹脂材のフランジ部の嵌合凹部の形成された表面に背向した表面に断面凹字状の溝が形成され、レーザー光を照射するときに透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材を押圧する押圧部材が、溝の内部を走行するローラーを有することが好ましい。

[0051]

両樹脂材の少なくとも一方のフランジ部に断面凹字状の溝が形成され、押圧部材がこの溝の内部を走行するローラーを有することで、レーザー溶着時にレーザー光の走査を容易に 10 行うことができる。すなわち、溝とローラーとがガイドとして機能して、溶着時に両樹脂材がずれることを抑えることができる。

[0052]

本発明の溶着方法において、透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材の当接界面を圧接するときの押圧力は、特に限定されない。すなわち、溶着される透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材の材質や溶着後に要求される溶着強度によりお適宜決定される。

[0053]

本発明の溶着方法において、非透過樹脂材に用いる樹脂の種類としては、熱可塑性を有し、加熱源としてのレーザ光を透過させずに吸収しうるものであれば特に限定されない。たとえば、ナイロン6(PA6)やナイロン66(PA66)等のポリアミド(PA)、ポ 20リエチレン(PE)、ポリプロピレン(PP)、スチレンーアクリロニトリル共重合体、ポリエチレンテレフタレート(PET)、ポリスチレン、ABS、アクリル(PMMA)、ポリカーボネート(PC)、ポリプチレンテレフタレート(PBT)、PPS等に、カーボンブラック、染料や顔料等の所定の着色材を混入したものをあげることができる。なお、必要に応じて、ガラス繊維、カーボン繊維等の補強繊維を添加したものを用いてもよい。

[0054]

透過樹脂材に用いる樹脂の種類としては、熱可塑性を有し、加熱源としてのレーザ光を所定の透過率以上で透過させうるものであれば特に限定されない。たとえば、ナイロン6(PA6)やナイロン66(PA66)等のポリアミド(PA)、ポリエチレン(PE)、ポリプロピレン(PP)、スチレンーアクリロニトリル共重合体、ポリエチレンテレフタレート(PET)、ポリスチレン、ABS、アクリル(PMMA)、ポリカーボネート(PC)、ポリプチレンテレフタレート(PBT)等を挙げることができる。なお、必要に応じて、ガラス繊維、カーボン繊維等の補強繊維や着色材を添加したものを用いてもよい

[0055]

レーザー光の種類としては、レーザー光を透過させる透過樹脂材の吸収スペクトルや板厚(透過長)等との関係で、透過樹脂材内での透過率が所定値以上となるような波長を有するものが適宜選定される。例えば、ガラス:ネオジム * レーザー、 * アルビーレーザー、 * ハリウムーネオンレーザー、 * クリプトンレーザー、 * アルゴ * ンレーザー、 * H₂ レーザー、 * N₂ レーザー、半導体レーザー等のレーザー光をあげることができる。より好ましいレーザーとしては、 * YAG:ネオジム * ナーザー (レーザー光の波長:1060nm) や半導体レーザー (レーザー光の波長:500~1000nm) をあげることができる。

[0056]

レーザー光の波長は、接合される樹脂材料により異なるため一概に決定できないが、1060 nm以下であることが好ましい。波長が1060 nmを超えると、接合面を互いに溶融させることが困難となる。

[0057]

また、レーザー光の出力は、50~900Wであることが好ましい。レーザー光の出力が 50

50W未満では、出力が低く樹脂材料の接合面を互いに溶融させることが困難となり、900Wを超えると、出力が過剰となり樹脂材料が蒸発したり、変質するという問題が生じるようになる。

[0058]

本発明の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法は、レーザー光が照射された照射部の近傍において 透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材とを圧接させることで、レーザー光が照射された照射部におけ る透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材との密着性を確保している。また、本発明の樹脂部材のレー ザー溶着方法は、一つの溶着工程で溶着不良の発生を抑えられた樹脂部材をレーザー溶着 することができる。

[0059]

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【実施例】

以下、実施例を用いて本発明を説明する。

[0060]

本発明の実施例として、樹脂材のレーザー溶着を行い、樹脂成形品を製造した。

[0061]

なお、レーザー溶着に用いられるレーザー光は、波長が940nmの半導体レーザーであり、出力は50~900W、加工速度は0.5~5m/minとした。

[0062]

また、レーザー溶着により溶着される樹脂材は、上記レーザー光に対して透過性を有する 樹脂よりなる透過樹脂材1と、上記レーザー光に対して透過性のない樹脂よりなる非透過 20 樹脂材2とからなる。

[0063]

透過樹脂材 1 を構成する樹脂は、ナイロン 6 ガラス強化材であり、レーザー光に対する透過率が 2 0 %以上であった。

[0064]

非透過樹脂材2を構成する樹脂はナイロン6ガラス強化材にカーボンブラックおよび着色材を混入したものであり、レーザー光に対する吸収率は、80%以上であった。

[0065]

すなわち、透過樹脂材 1 および非透過樹脂材 2 は、互いに相溶性を有する樹脂よりなっている。

[0066]

ここで、レーザー光に対する透過率は、厚さ3mmの板状に形成された樹脂の厚さ方向に レーザー光を照射し、この樹脂を透過したレーザー光を分光計により測定することで決定 された。

[0067]

また、レーザー透過率は、厚さ3mmの板状に形成された樹脂の厚さ方向にレーザー光を 照射し、この樹脂を透過したレーザー光を分光計により測定することで決定された。

[0068]

(実施例1)

実施例1は、レーザー光の光線中に線状の溶着樹脂を配して樹脂部材のレーザー溶着を行 40った例である。本実施例のレーザー溶着の様子を図1~2に示した。

[0069]

透過樹脂材1のレーザー溶着により溶着される当接端部10には、下方に突出する嵌合凸部11が設けられている。この嵌合凸部11は、レーザ光が照射される側の表面11aは透過樹脂材1ののびる方向と略一致する平面状に形成され、背向する表面11bは先端側(下方側)に向かって厚さが薄くなるように傾斜して形成されている。

[0070]

非透過樹脂材2の当接端部20には、上記嵌合凸部11が挿入される嵌合凹部21が設けられている。この嵌合凹部21は、上記嵌合凸部11が挿入可能な断面凹字状に形成されている。そして、上記嵌合凸部11が嵌合凹部21に挿入されたときには、嵌合凹部21

を形成する一対の対向壁部 2 1 a , 2 1 b のうちの一方の壁部 2 1 b が嵌合凸部 1 1 の傾斜して形成された表面 1 1 b と一致するように形成されている。そして、嵌合凹部 2 1 の他方(レーザー光が照射される側)の壁部 2 1 a は、嵌合凸部 1 1 のレーザー光が照射される側の表面 1 1 a との間に空間が形成できるようにもうけられている。この空間が貯留部 3 となる。そして、嵌合凹部 2 1 の他方の壁部 2 1 a は一方の壁部 2 1 b よりも低い高さで形成されている。すなわち、レーザ光が照射される側の対向壁部は、反対側の高対向壁部よりも低い高さとされている。

[0071]

両樹脂材1,2のレーザー溶着は、まず、透過樹脂材1と非透過樹脂材2とを所定の位置にセットする。詳しくは、非透過樹脂材2の嵌合凹部21の一方の壁部21bの表面に透 10過樹脂材1の嵌合凸部11の傾斜した表面11bが当接するように、透過樹脂材1と非透過樹脂材2とをセットする。このとき、嵌合凸部11の先端面と嵌合凹部21の底面の一部も密着した状態にある。また、両樹脂材1,2の当接面にずれが生じないように、両樹脂材1,2が保持された。

[0072]

そして、両樹脂材1,2の当接界面に上記レーザー光の照射を行った。このとき、レーザー光は、両樹脂材1,2が当接する方向(図1および2においては鉛直方向)に対して傾斜した角度で照射された。この照射により照射されたレーザー光が透過樹脂材1を透過する透過長を短くできる。

[0073]

そして、レーザー光の光線中でありかつ貯留部3の鉛直上方の位置に、レーザー光に対して透過性のない樹脂よりなる線状の樹脂ワイヤ4を供給した。この樹脂ワイヤ4の供給は、レーザー光を発するレーザーヘッド51に一体にもうけられた樹脂ワイヤ供給装置52を用いて行われた。この樹脂ワイヤ供給装置52は、レーザーヘッド51から照射されたレーザー光の光線中に連続的に樹脂ワイヤ4を供給できる。レーザー光の光線中に配された樹脂ワイヤ4はレーザー光のエネルギーを吸収して温度が上昇する。そして、樹脂ワイヤ4は溶融し、溶融液41が樹脂ワイヤ4から落下して、貯留部3に貯留される。

[0074]

樹脂ワイヤ4は、ナイロン6にカーボンブラックおよび着色材を混入してなる。この樹脂ワイヤ4は、レーザー光に対する吸収率が80%以上であった。

[0075]

また、このとき、樹脂ワイヤ4に吸収されないレーザー光は、両樹脂材1,2の当接界面に照射された。当接界面に照射されたレーザー光は、まず、透過樹脂材1を透過して非透過樹脂材2の表面に到達し、吸収される。そして、透過樹脂材2に吸収されたレーザー光はエネルギーとして蓄積される。この結果、非透過樹脂材2の当接面が加熱溶融されるとともに、この非透過樹脂材2の当接面からの熱伝達により透過樹脂材1の当接面が加熱溶融される。

[0076]

この状態で、透過樹脂材1及び非透過樹脂材2を押圧して、嵌合凹部21と嵌合凸部11 の当接面同士を圧着させて、両者を一体的に接合する。このとき、透過樹脂材1と非透過 40 樹脂材2の当接界面に隙間が存在していると、貯留部3に滴下した樹脂ワイヤ4の溶融液 41がこの隙間に侵入する。そして、透過樹脂材1と非透過樹脂材2の溶着に必要な樹脂 が供給される。この結果、当接界面における溶着不良が生じなくなっている。

[0077]

こうして得られた接合部では、接合面同士が溶融されて接合されており、接合面同士の間では両樹脂材を構成する両樹脂が溶融して互いに入り込み絡まった状態が形成されている ため、強固な接合状態を構成して高い接合強度及び耐圧強度を有している。

[0078]

また、両樹脂材の当接界面の表面側には、樹脂ワイヤの溶融液が供給されていることから、この溶融液が当接界面の外表面部で凝固して両樹脂材の当接界面が露出しなくなってい 50

る。すなわち、両樹脂材がレーザー溶着されてなる樹脂成形体のシール性が向上している

[0079]

なお、本実施例は、部分的なレーザー溶着において説明したが、図3に示したように、レ ーザー光を走査させることで連続的にレーザー溶着を行うことができる。このとき、レー ザー光の走査は、非透過樹脂材が十分に加熱されかつ、樹脂ワイヤの溶融液が十分に供給 できる速度で走査されることができる。

[0080]

本実施例は、一度のレーザー光の照射で溶着不良の発生を抑えることができる効果を示し た。

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[0081]

(実施例2)

実施例2は、樹脂ワイヤにかえて、粉末状の溶着樹脂を用いてレーザー溶着を行った以外 は実施例1と同様な例である。溶着時の様子を図4に示した。

[0082]

本実施例においても実施例1と同様に、透過樹脂材1と非透過樹脂材2との当接界面にレ ーザーヘッド51からのレーザー光を照射し、このレーザー光中にレーザーヘッド51と 一体にもうけられた樹脂粉末供給装置53からの溶着樹脂粉末4'を供給した。ここで、 レーザー光中に供給された溶着樹脂粉末4'は、実施例1の樹脂ワイヤ4と同じ樹脂より 形成された粉末であり、平均粒径が50μmであった。

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[0083]

レーザー溶着時にレーザー光線中に供給された溶着樹脂粉末4'は、レーザー光線を吸収 してただちに、貯留部3に溶融状態で落下し、貯留部3に貯留される。そして、実施例1 と同様に透過樹脂材1と非透過樹脂材2との当接界面に供給され、両樹脂材1.2を溶着 する。

[0084]

実施例2においても、実施例1と同様に溶着不良を生じさせることなく、強固に両樹脂材 を溶着できた。

[0085]

なお、本実施例においても、実施例1と同様に、図5に示したように、レーザー光を走査 30 させることで連続的にレーザー溶着を行うことができる。

[0086]

また、

(実施例3)

本実施例は、実施例1および2において溶着された透過樹脂材および非透過樹脂材のそれ ぞれの当接端部が異なる形態の樹脂材をレーザー溶着した。

実施例3の透過樹脂材1は、図7にその断面が示されたように、レーザー溶着により溶着 される当接端部10には、レーザー光が照射される側に突出したフランジ部15と、フラ ンジ部15の下方に突出する嵌合凸部16と、が設けられている。この嵌合凸部16は、 先端側(下方側)に向かって漸次縮小して突出する略台形状の断面形状をなしている。そ して、レーザー光が照射される側の短傾斜側面16aは、反対側の長傾斜側面16bより も短い長さとされている。また、フランジ部15の嵌合凸部16が突出しない表面には、 断面凹字状の溝条(図示せず)が形成されている。

[0088]

また、非透過樹脂材2の当接端部20には、レーザー光が照射される側に突出したフラン ジ部25と、フランジ部25の表面上に嵌合凸部15と嵌合可能な断面に区画された嵌合 凹部26と、が設けられている。この嵌合凹部26は、嵌合凸部16と整合する形状とさ れ、底面から上方に向かって漸次開口が拡がる略台形状の断面形状をなしている。そして 、嵌合凹部26を形成する一対の対向壁部26a,26bのうちの一方26aは他方より 50

も低い高さで形成されている。すなわち、レーザ光が照射される側の低対向壁部26aは、反対側の高対向壁部26bよりも低い高さとされている。なお、低対向壁部の内面が、 短傾斜側面と当接してレーザ溶着される短傾斜側面となり、高対向壁部の内面が、長傾斜側面と当接してレーザ溶着される長傾斜側面となる。

[0089]

両樹脂材1,2のレーザー溶着は、まず、透過樹脂材1と非透過樹脂材2とを所定の位置にセットする。詳しくは、非透過樹脂材2の嵌合凹部26に透過樹脂材の嵌合凸部16を嵌合させた。そして、両樹脂材1,2の当接面にずれが生じないように、両樹脂材1,2 が保持された。なお、嵌合凹部26に嵌合凸部16が嵌合された状態においては、両樹脂部材1,2のフランジ部15,25は積層した状態にある。

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[0090]

つづいて、レーザー溶着装置を用いてレーザー溶着を行った。

[0091]

本実施例において用いられたレーザー溶着装置は、両樹脂材の当接界面を加熱するレーザー光を照射するレーザーヘッド (図示せず) と、レーザーヘッドと一体に形成された積層したフランジ部を積層した厚さ方向に圧縮する押圧部材 6 と、を有する。

[0092]

押圧部材 6 は、透過樹脂材 1 のフランジ部 1 5 を非透過樹脂材 2 方向に押圧するとともにフランジ部 1 5 に沿って走行するローラー 6 1 と、非透過樹脂材 2 のフランジ部 2 5 の嵌合凹部 2 6 が形成されていない表面を押圧する押圧治具 6 2 と、を有する。

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[0093]

本実施例において行われたレーザー溶着を、以下に説明する。

[0094]

まず、透過樹脂材1と非透過樹脂材2とを所定の位置にセットする。詳しくは、非透過樹脂材2の嵌合凹部26に透過樹脂材1の嵌合凸部15が嵌入されて嵌合凹部26の表面と嵌合凸部16の表面とが当接するように、透過樹脂材1と非透過樹脂材2とがセットされた。

[0095]

そして、透過樹脂材1と非透過樹脂材2の積層した状態にあるフランジ部15,25にレーザー溶着装置の押圧部材6をセットし、フランジ部15,25を押圧する。このとき、ローラー61がこの溝条に沿って移動可能な状態で、フランジ部15に形成された溝条に押圧部材6のローラー61がはめ込まれてセットされた。この押圧により、嵌合凹部26と嵌合凸部16とは密着した。なお、押圧部材6による押圧は、嵌合した状態にある嵌合凹部26と嵌合凸部16との当接界面に隙間が生じない圧力で押圧された。

[0096]

両樹脂材 1, 2のフランジ部 15, 25が圧縮された状態で、レーザーヘッドからレーザー光を照射させる。そして、このレーザー光が照射された状態で、レーザー溶着装置をローラー 61によりガイドされた状態で走査させた。このレーザー光の照射により、実施例 1および 2において生じたように、両樹脂材の当接界面において加熱溶融が生じ、両樹脂材が溶着を生じた。

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[0097]

以上のように、レーザー光を走査させることで、透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材とが溶着された。

[0098]

本実施例は、一度のレーザー光の照射で溶着不良の発生を抑えることができる効果を示した。

[0099]

【発明の効果】

本発明の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法は、溶着樹脂の溶融液が樹脂材の当接部に供給され 、この当接部において溶融液が凝固することで両樹脂材の当接部をシールする。さらに、

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樹脂材の界面に隙間が生じている時には、この隙間に溶融液が侵入して隙間を埋めることで溶着不良の発生を押さえることができる。すなわち、本発明の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法は、一つの溶着工程で溶着不良の発生を抑えられた樹脂部材をレーザー溶着することができる。

[0100]

また、本発明の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法は、レーザー光が照射された照射部の近傍において透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材とを圧接させることで、レーザー光が照射された照射部における透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材との密着性を確保している。本発明の樹脂部材のレーザー溶着方法は、一つの溶着工程で溶着不良の発生を抑えられた樹脂部材をレーザー溶着することができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

- 【図1】実施例1の透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材とが当接端部において当接した状態を示した図である。
- 【図2】実施例1においてレーザー光を照射した状態を側方から観測した図である。
- 【図3】実施例1においてレーザー光を照射した状態を上方から観測した図である。
- 【図4】実施例1においてレーザー光を照射した状態を示した図である。
- 【図5】実施例2においてレーザー光を照射した状態を側方から観測した図である。
- 【図6】実施例2においてレーザー光を照射した状態を上方から観測した図である。
- 【図7】実施例3の透過樹脂材と非透過樹脂材とが当接端部において当接した状態を示した図である。
- 【図8】実施例3においてレーザー光を照射した状態を上方から観測した図である。
- 【図9】 当接面隙間量と溶着強度の関係を示した図である。

【符号の説明】

- 1…透過樹脂材 10…当接端部
- 11、16…嵌合凸部 15…フランジ部
- 2…非透過樹脂材 20…当接端部
- 21、26…嵌合凹部 25…フランジ部
- 3…貯留部
- 4…樹脂ワイヤ 4、…溶着樹脂粉末
- 4 1…溶融液
- 51…レーザーヘッド 52…樹脂ワイヤ供給装置
- 5 3 …樹脂粉末供給装置
- 6…押圧部材
 - 61…ローラー

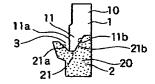
62…押圧治具

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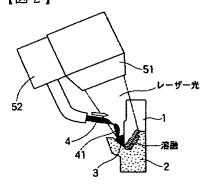
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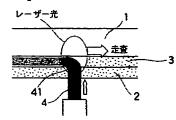
【図1】

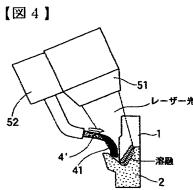


【図2】

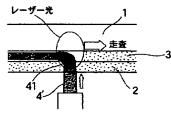


【図3】

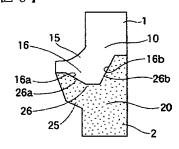




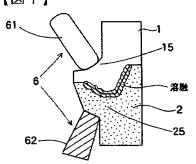
【図5】



【図6】



[図7]



【図8】

